

Message Text

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73

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 OMB-01 SAM-01 /087 W
----- 077717

R 191409Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3210

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABOONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1125

UNCLAS PRETORIA 4440

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AO SF PNS MOPS

SUBJECT: ANGOLA IN SOUTH AFRICAN PRESS

REF: PRETORIA 4432

1. LOCAL PRESS REPORTED AFTERNOON NOV 19 THAT SEVERAL
HUNDRED FULLY ARMED TROOPS HAD BEEN FLOWN BY JET INTO NOVA
LISBOA TO PARTICIPATE IN MAJOR DRIVE ON LUANDA. POINT OF
ORIGIN OF TROOPS OR OTHER IDENTIFICATION NOT STATED. UNITA
REPORT THAT MALANJE HAD BEEN TAKEN IS VIEPRS MAJOR SETBACK
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TO MPLA, SPLITTING TERRITORY IT FORMERLY CONTROLLED.

2. PRETORIA NEWS EDITORIAL NOTED THAT COVERAGE OF FON MIN MULLERS TALK IN LONDON (REFTEL) REPRESENTED BREAK IN HITERTO PROHIBITED SUBJECT OF SOUTH AFRICAN INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. " WE CANNOT SHARE IN THE LAUGHTER WHICH GREETED HIS ANSWER. THE WHOLE SITUATION HAS BECOME VERY UNFUNNY. SOUTH AFRICANS NOW KNOW THAT THERE HAS BEEN INTERNATIONAL SPECULATION WHICH THE GOVERNMENT CLAMPED DOWN ON. THIS IS UNFAIR TO A SOUTH AFRICAN PUBLIC WHICH MAY BE DRAWING UNJUSTIFIED CONCLUSIONS." ELSEWHERE IN SAME EDITION PAPER REFERRED TO NUMEROUS REPORTS THAT WHITE MEN WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ACCENTS, SOUTH AFRICAN PLANES, AND ARMORED CARS HAD BEEN SEEN BY BRITISH JOURNALISTS IN ANGOLA. PAPER QUOTED FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER AS SAYING SOUTH AFRICAN FORCES OBSERVED OVER 500 MILES INSIDE ANGOLA.. STAR EDITORIALIZED " IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO KEEP SECRET EVENTS RIGHT HERE IN SOUTH AFRICA WHICH HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST 24 HOURS AND WHICH BY THEIR VERY NATURE ARE BECOMING COMMON KNOWLEDGE. (MULLER) IS HAVING TO ATTEMPT TO JUSTIFY A POLICY OF CENSORSHIP AND EQUIVOCATION WHICH DOES NO GOOD AT HOME AND IS PALPABLY HARMING US ABROAD."

3. PRETORIA NEWS AND STAR BOTH FRONT-PAGED DEFENSE FORCE STATEMENT GIVEN IN RESPONSE TO RUMORS OF A POSSIBLE CALL-UP, STATEMENT SAID " THERE HAS BEEN SUCH A POSITIVE REACTION AMONG MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN FORCE AND COMMANDO UNITS THAT THEY HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO DO SERVICE OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD ANYWHERE THE SADF WANTS THEM. THIS INCLUDES THE PARABATS. THE MATTER IS UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE DEFENSE FORCE."

5. UNDER MUNICH DATELINE, STAR CITED SOVIET TASS COMMENTARY CHARGING MULLER AND SAG WITH "POLITICAL HYPOCRISY" IN SAYING SAG RECOGNIZED INDEPENDENCE OF ANGOLA. TASS ACCUSED SAG OF LAUNCHING ARMED AGGRESSION ON ANGOLA TO PREVENT INDEPENDENCE AND TO ENCOURAGE SECESSION OF SOUTHERN ANGOLA TO INSURE SAG ACCESS TO NATURAL RESOURCES.
BOWDLER

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